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As an oncology nurse of over 25 years, past President of the Oncology Nursing Society, and NCLAC member, I am submitting the following statement for your consideration:

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the NCLAC since its inception. We are all passionately committed to reducing the burden of cancer on the individual, his or her family and community, and our nation. How we reduce that burden is subject to debate. There are three points that I would like to reinforce from the report:

1. The convergence of two trends, the aging population and a shortage of a variety of health professionals, sets the stage for an impending crisis in cancer care in the near future. If not adequately addressed, our ability to deliver quality cancer care will be greatly reduced.
2. All aspects of the cancer care continuum-- from discovery to delivering quality cancer care-- are *equally* important to those with cancer now and for future generations who hope to avoid this disease.
3. The NCLAC recommendations are not 'either/or' options. All recommendations must be adopted to fully address what needs to be done and to close gaps in the existing cancer system. When computing the costs of these recommendations, the costs of not implementing them are significant and should also be calculated.

This report provides a roadmap that, *when used in toto*, will address the tremendous needs we have as a society facing an impending, but preventable, crisis.